

"FOOD FOR BELGIUM"

Bulletin of The Commission for Relief in Belgium

OFFICIAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL BELGIAN RELIEF

Executive Offices, 71 Broadway, New York

Vol. I

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 13, 1915

No 3

FOOD SUPPLIES OR MONEY FOR BUYING MORE FOODSTUFFS

Owing to confusion that has arisen through the activities of various individual committees, The Commission for Relief in Belgium finds it necessary to make plain certain matters connected with relief work in the United States.

The Commission has received many telegrams from various states, asking if hereafter cash only is to be accepted for relief work in Belgium. It appears that several individual committees have issued appeals for cash contributions alone, and obviously their names have been confused with the main organization because of the similarity of all relief names. Such appeals of individual committees, it should be understood, do not come from The Commission for Relief in Belgium, the International body which is constituted under numerous diplomatic naval and military conventions.

In general it should be stated that the individual committees sanctioned by the Commission accept either foodstuffs or cash for the purchase of more foodstuffs. From the states not as yet officially organized and represented by a recognized committee, it desires contributions of either foodstuffs or money by check or postoffice order.

The urgent need for further contributions, not only of foodstuffs but of cash with which to buy more foodstuffs, is shown by the figures of the Commission for the month of February, which report a shortage of many thousand tons.

To all who buy food and forward it to the Commission, or collect it, or let us know where to send for it, and to all those who give money to our recognized state committees, or to us, we express our deep and lasting gratitude.

Belgium

A Beggar Man came hungry to my door,
I gave him bread, and would have given more.
But Charity, astounded, bade me wait
Until her minions should investigate.

"Who knows?" said she. "This man may be a sinner.
His soul may not be worthy of a dinner!
Say then, until we try the Third Degree,
He may not be quite right," said Charity.

So all that day the twin of gentle Hope
Put my pale beggar neath the microscope.
At night Fair Charity emerged aglow—
"He was all right," she said. He died, you know."

DANA BURNET in the New York Evening Sun

COMMISSION NOW FACING A SHORTAGE OF 76 THOUSAND TONS

To make up a shortage of 76,000 tons of food during the next three months is the big task now confronting the Commission for Relief in Belgium. The report concerning the shortage came to the Commission late in January by cable from the London office. The London report is as follows:

"The Commission is actually short in the department for the feeding of destitute Belgians, *twenty-one thousand tons for February, twenty-five thousand tons for March, and thirty thousand tons for April.* The enforced transfer of food from the department for provisioning those who can still pay something for rations during these months is bound to eat its provisioning capitals seriously.

"There are now 1,400,000 destitute, and the actual cost of supplying and administering the canteens for the destitute now is \$2,800,000 per month. The number of the destitute daily increases."

To Our Friends

"Food for Belgium" is designed to keep all American committees and societies engaged in feeding the people of Belgium informed concerning the situation as it develops day by day, and to stimulate all legitimate efforts to relieve the "stricken little sister of the world."

The Commission for Relief in Belgium is the only officially constituted and officially recognized body for the transportation and distribution of Belgium relief. It regularly transmits through its organization for shipping and distribution the food collected in America. It tries in every way to inform the public concerning the unprecedented need in Belgium.

The Commission is defraying all the expenses of conveying relief supplies into Belgium. It agrees to take these supplies from the point of collection to the recipient. In Belgium it has the services of the Comité de Secours, "The model charity of the world," which sees that the supplies are distributed to the people on scientific lines. That work is under the further supervision of our United States Consuls in Belgium, who are members and active agents of the Commission.

DONATIONS UP TO AND INCLUDING JANUARY 16, 1915

Anonymous	\$3.00	Duff, Wm. H., Pittsburgh, Pa.	5.00
Anonymous	4.00	Dennison, Miss May, Fort Worth, Tex.	2.50
Anonymous	5.00	Dansville (N. Y.) Presbyterian Sunday School.	71.00
Friend	1.00	Demorest, D. J., Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio	10.00
Anonymous	2.00	Dower, M. Louise, 1711 E. Fayette St., Syracuse, N. Y. .	10.00
W. G.	1.00	Darby, Mr. W. H., Buchanan, Mich.	2.00
An Irish woman.	1.00	Dodson, Miss Ida, Titusville.	1.00
Sympathizing American (via "Houston Post," Houston Texas)	5.00	E	
Anonymous	5.00	Elmendorf Chapel Sunday School, 171 E. 121st St., New York City.	30.00
Rochester	2.00	Eighth Avenue Methodist Sunday School, Class 68, Al- toona, Pa.	3.00
Anonymous	1.00	Edinboro (Pa.) Baptist Church, Edinboro, Pa.	4.86
Admirer	10.00	Edinboro (Pa.) Embroidery Club, Edinboro, Erie County, Pa.	5.00
Admirer	75.00	F	
H. R. S.	5.00	Fraser, Arthur C., 70 Broadway, New York City.	50.00
Anonymous	10.00	Foster, H. D., Dartmouth College, Hanover, N. H.	5.00
Anonymous	100.00	Folson, H. P., Circleville, Ohio.	5.00
American Citizen	20.00	Fletcher, Peter, Lamb, Finlay & Co., 256 Church St. .	1,000.00
Two Children	5.00	Fort Miller (N. Y.) Reformed Church Sunday School	6.40
Anonymous	1.00	G	
A Laborer	1.00	Galbreth, R. D., 3322 Inyo Ave., Fresno, Cal.	5.00
Anonymous	2.00	Garret, J. B., Society of C. E.60
Anonymous	1.00	Goss, Rev. C. F., Cincinnati, Ohio.	5.00
Anonymous	5.00	Gormly, Miss G. A., 819 St. James St., Pittsburgh, Pa.	10.00
J. H. L.	6.00	Gerson, Mr. E. M., care Mayer Bros. Co., 229 Walnut St., Cincinnati, Ohio	5.00
Jean Denis	10.00	Graham, Mr. Edgar, The Helena Clarion, Helena, Ark.	3.00
Anonymous	5.00	Graham, Mr. Edgar	3.05
Friends at Derby, Vermont.	13.10	H	
A			
Ann Arbor First Presbyterian Church, C. E. and Sun- day School, Ann Arbor, Mich.	27.00	Hays, Rosemary	5.00
Austin (Tex.) Citizens, Austin, Tex.	100.00	Hawaii Contribution	35,000.00
Angell, Walter F., Providence, R. I.	5.00	Hart, R. B., 21 Benedict Ave., Hion, N. Y.	5.00
Amherst (Mass.) First Congregational Church.	10.00	Halsinger, Mrs. Mary E., Fort Hall Idaho.	10.00
Alton, J. B., Stony Ford, N. Y.	10.00	Hanover Presbyterian Church, Hanover, Ind.	13.65
B			
Bishop, H. D., Teague, Tex.	1.00	Holmes, Miss Ethel A., 1334 Henry Clay Ave., New Orleans, La.	2.00
Barrett, Miss Mary B., Gainesville, Fla.	5.00	Hardy, C. W., care Wood Live Stock Co., Spencer, Idaho	5.00
Bissell, Mrs. Mary A., 17 Clinton Ave., Pittsfield, Mass	5.00	Heidnutt, Mr. Arthur C., Albion, Mich.	2.00
Bordentown (N. J.) Public Schools.	5.00	Hunter, J. W., Jacksonville, Fla.	2.00
Bower, W. A., The Anaconda Standard, Anaconda, Mont.	5.00	Hampson, D. A., 24th Separate Co. Band, 31 Hanford St., Middletown, N. Y.	302.96
Benson, B., Deming, New Mexico.	5.00	Houch, Mr. E., Unadilla, N. Y.	20.00
Boulton, Mrs. W. B., 40 Fifth Ave., New York City	10.00	Holiday, Alice H., Grandview Savings Bank, Grandview Iowa	9.25
Berne (N. Y.) Reformed Church and Sunday School. .	35.00	Hamilton, Miss Margaret V., Aurora, Ind.	30.00
Baker, Wallace D., 234 Pine St., Selinsgrove, Pa. .	3.00	Haskell (Tex.) Presbyterian Church and Sunday School	13.82
Brewer, Francis E., Curtis High School, Port Rich- mond, S. I.	8.40	Hannay, Mrs. R., 1545 S. Aurora St., Stockton, Cal.	10.00
Beer, Sexton, Buckhannon, W. Va.	2.00	Hawaii Relief Committee of Honolulu, T. H.	2,700.00
Brady, Mr. Adhemar, Titusville, Fla.	4.00	J	
Bathorf, L.	1.00	Jantzen, Mr. Louis, Bartelso, Ill.	10.00
Brown, W. J.	1.00	Joyner, Mr. and Mrs. F., Littleton, N. C.	10.00
C			
Cramer, Robert	5.00	Jackson (Minn.) First Presbyterian Church Sunday School, Jackson, Minn.	42.16
Crippen, Mr. H. L., 79 Branch St., Mount Holly, N. J.	50.00	K	
Christian Herald Relief Fund.	40,000.00	Kastendyke, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Edwin, 41 Pinehurst Ave., New York City.	5.00
Camp Bird Mines, Ltd., Onray, Col.	355.50	L	
Cohen, Mrs. H. S., Hotel Majestic, 72nd St., New York City	10.00	Lauri, Roma, care "Variety," 1536 Broadway, New York City	1.00
Chapel of General Theological Seminary, Chelsea Square, New York City	50.00	Lowe, Fanny E., 30 E. Prospect Ave., Washington, Pa.	5.00
Calvary Presbyterian Church, Auburn, N. Y.	26.00	Leary, Mr. Wm., 800 De Leon St., Tampa, Fla.	40.00
Colby, Mr. Henry F., Dayton, Ohio.	10.00	Leary, Mr. Thomas, 800 De Leon St., Tampa, Fla.	2.00
Clark, Mrs. Paul F., 2006 Monroe St., Madison, Wis. .	3.00	Losee, Mr. Frank I., 249 Roseville Ave., Newark, N. J. .	10.00
Carnes, Mr. J. Harry, Patent Office, R. 163, Washingt- on, D. C.	5.00	Lassell, Mr. Geo. M., 293 Congress St., Bridgeport, Conn.	7.00
Camp Bird Mines, Ltd., Ouray, Col.	352.50	M	
Craig, Charles L., Chicora, Pa.	2.25	Martin, Samuel (via New York Herald)	5.00
Cedarville (Ohio) United Presbyterian Church (per Miron I. Marsh)	72.00	Meaker Co., Inc., C. G., and employees, 39 Wall St., Auburn, N. Y.	41.00
Chambliss, Mrs. Z. C., Ocala, Fla.	15.00	McGovern, Miss Grace, 326 W. 71st St., New York City	5.00
Clare, S. (no address given)	5.00	Mossmann, Mrs. H. H., 969 Park Ave., New York City	20.00
Chapman, C. W., Freeport, Ill.	2.00	Miller, Mr. Roy F., 52 University Driveway, Morgan- town, W. Va.	5.00
Crowther, G. F., 302 Magnolia Ave., Piedmont, Cal. .	1.00	McFadden, H. H., Steubenville Gazette, Steubenville, Ohio	104.00
D			
Dubs, H. H., 600 E. 122nd St., New York City.	5.00	<i>(To be continued)</i>	
Decker, Rev. Floyd, 171 E. 121st., New York City.	5.00		
Daughters of the King, St. John's Church, Waterbury, Conn.	3.00		

A LETTER OF THANKS FROM BELGIUM TO THE PEOPLE OF AMERICA

A letter of thanks to the people of the United States from E. Francqui, President, Committee National of Belgium, for their help was brought to the United States by Edward Robinette, of Philadelphia, who has just returned from a visit to Belgium, where he went in the interests of the Allied Relief Association of the State of Pennsylvania. The translated letter is as follows:

Headquarters National de Secours et D'Alimentation

Dear Mr. Robinette:

Before you depart we again beg to express to you our profound gratitude for the help given by the Philadelphia Committee to our Compatriots and for all that you have informed us about.

When visiting the regions of Louvain, Malines, Liege, Vise, Namur, Dinant, Couvin, Charleroi, etc. you have been able to get an exact idea of the disasters caused by war in our formerly happy country.

You have seen unfortunate country people in terrible distress, women and children struggling along the roads, without money, without bread, without coal, without clothing, without shelter. The husband is in war, or is no more; house, furniture, clothing, results of a long labor, everything has been destroyed.

The cattle which still remain are in a state of unbelievable distress. Agriculture and industry have been devastated and on all sides are the ruins of farms and factories.

You know how Belgium only looked for her way in labor and peace and how we have been the innocent victims of the present conflict.

Your merits will not have failed to secure for us in your noble and liberal nation a valuable co-operation anxious to relieve a population worthy of the pity of all other nations from a double point of view, because she is threatened to starve of misery and because she suffers for having done her duty and for not having forfeited her honor.

In the name of the "Comite National de Secours et d'Alimentation" and in the name of the whole Belgium nation, we beg to tender you personally and to the people of Philadelphia our gratitude for the so powerful and effective aid you gave us and for the liberal help of all your fellow countrymen.

All of us Belgians will keep in everlasting remembrance the kindness shown by your noble country to the whole of the miserable people to Belgium.

Yours,

(Signed) E. FRANCQUI, President,
Comite National of Belgium.

Contributions

The Woman's Section has recently announced a number of special contributions. One of these was \$3,000 worth of milk from the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. Los Angeles and Pasadena sent within ten days \$5,950 for milk for the Belgians. Another contribution recently announced was a large quantity of new clothing for children made by the girls of New York State Custodial Asylum.

FOOD BOXES FOR BELGIUM

Food boxes for Belgium are generally on sale in the retail grocery stores of the United States. The Commission for Relief in Belgium has made arrangements so that the purchaser need have no concern about his box after he buys it—it will be carried free of shipping charge from the counter of the American store to the door of the needy Belgian. Even parcel post charges will be refunded.

Detailed directions for sending the boxes and for obtaining the refund money will be given upon application at any post office or express office in the United States, or at the office of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, 71 Broadway, New York City.

In case you are not able to get food boxes for Belgium either from your grocer, your local relief committee or the state organization in your territory representing the Commission for Relief in Belgium, address a letter to the New York headquarters.

Food boxes for Belgium will be gladly packed at seaboard, at wholesale prices or lower, and credited to any one sending check or money order to the Commission for Relief in Belgium, 71 Broadway, New York City.

LEAFLETS FOR DISTRIBUTION

**They Tell the Story of Need in Belgium
and the Work of the Commission**

Handbook of Belgium

Revised edition outlining the history, the purpose and the work of The Commission.

The Babes of Belgium

By Will Irwin

The Case of Belgium

By George Bernard Shaw

News Sheet for Newspapers

News stories, prepared for the use of managing editors.

General Instructions

For making contributions of food, clothing and money, Second Edition.

History of the Woman's Section

Issued by the Woman's Section.

Report from Mrs. H. C. Hoover

On the work of The Commission.

Food Box Pamphlet

A small folder telling of the food box plan which is being carried out by the Woman's Section.

For all literature referring to the work of The Commission in general, address

The Commission for Relief in Belgium

71 Broadway

New York

For all literature referring to the Woman's Section, address

The Commission for Relief in Belgium

The Woman's Section

1 Madison Avenue,

New York

OBSERVATIONS MADE IN BELGIUM BY EDWARD ROBINETTE

Rotterdam, 24th December, 1914.

I have travelled during the past eight days through Belgium, with a member of the American Commission, studying conditions there, and have returned with a heavy heart. I have seen desolation and waste on every side and have seen a people inhabiting a beautiful country, living before the war in picturesque houses—even the poorest—and the richer in magnificent homes, the greater number of which in the territory swept by the war, except in the largest cities, are now razed to the ground.

The people, happy, prosperous and energetic before the war, are now sad and dejected, with the greater part of the population without work and reduced almost to paupers.

The Belgians are a frugal people and I understand that one-third of the entire population had saving accounts, averaging over \$60 per person. These savings are now dwindling and in thousands of cases the people with savings accounts are penniless, with no work and starvation staring them in the face.

I was told by our American Minister at Brussels, the Hon. Brand Whitlock, that this little country before the war had the largest population per square mile of any country in the world, and that its farming was the most extensive of any country in the world, and as one passes through it from East to West and from North to South and sees the large numbers of people and the beautiful expanses of fertile farm lands he realizes that this must have been true.

It is difficult without seeming to exaggerate or appearing hysterical to give an adequate and true picture of the terrible destruction in the war-swept zone of Belgium and the awful and pitiful conditions under which the people are living today due to this destruction.

After some delay the Ambassador secured my passes which allowed me to visit, in the interest of the American Commission, practically all Belgium which has been swept by the war. Making Brussels my headquarters I travelled through most of the provinces going as far East as the German border, South beyond Dinant, close to the French border and beyond Mons in the West. The destruction one sees in the many towns, small cities and outlying districts is sickening. There are numerous towns completely destroyed. It is as though a cyclone had swept over the country leaving nothing but wreck and ruin in its track.

Much has been written in America about Louvain and we have heard more of the destruction of this city than of any other in Belgium. I visited Louvain three times and learned to know very well the present Burgomaster of the city, Monsieur A. Nerinx. I found Mr. Nerinx a most charming man, and helpful to me in many ways. He speaks English fluently and is, or rather was, until the destruction of the University, Professor of International Law in the University of Louvain and has lectured at Columbia and at other educational institutions in the United States. He happens to have some very good friends in our country, among whom is Professor Leo S. Rowe of the University of Pennsylvania.

One enters this one beautiful city by a narrow but picturesque winding street which suddenly brings you into the public square. There, standing in all its grandeur as though a monument to all that was beautiful in the architecture of its period, long past, and also as a sentinel watching over the results of the destruction and havoc

lying at its feet, is the beautiful Hotel de Ville; then as far as the eye will reach there is nothing to be seen but charred and broken walls—it is more like a city of the dead than of the living. But the destruction of Louvain, great as it is, is not nearly so great as the destruction I saw in certain other cities and towns. For instance, Dinant, Vise, Tamines and a number of other places I visited have suffered much more than Louvain. In Vise, a town of about 6,000 people, only one family has returned and is living in the ruins, and I could not find here a single house that had not been destroyed. And the people, where are they? In the beautiful city of Antwerp for instance, although some of the shops are open, and the majority of the people have returned to their homes, few people, with the exception of German soldiers, are in evidence. In Brussels, where no destruction of property occurred, and where no resistance was offered to the Germans on entering the city, things seem about normal and a good many people are about, but in the destroyed cities and towns, were one to pass through without making an examination, he would think a few people had returned. In almost every instance where I investigated I found the majority of the families or what was left of them, had come back. The Burgomasters of the various cities and towns where I made inquiry, always gave me about the same figures, and that is that 60 per cent. to 70 per cent. or more of the population had returned. The living conditions of most of these people are such that I shall not attempt to describe them. The housing condition of animals in my own country are luxurious as compared to what the people of these destroyed cities enjoy at present.

The task confronting the American Commission of feeding this people is a stupendous one. Out of a population of 8,000,000, there are about 7,000,000 people in Belgium. In normal times this country imported four-fifths of its food products, amounting to about 230,000 tons a month. It is figured by experts that if the Commission can get into Belgium 80,000 tons of foodstuffs a month, it can save the people. This will give to each person about one-third a soldier's ration per day. But the problem is assuming larger proportions each day. As I have already stated, the meat, vegetables and dairy products are giving out, and in addition the peoples' savings are dwindling. The percentage of the absolutely destitute in Belgium is increasing daily. In some districts it is from 30 per cent. to 40 per cent, but in the manufacturing districts it is much higher. In Brussels, for instance, with a population of 650,000, they are feeding each day, free, on an average of 225,000 adults and about 31,000 babies.

In the manufacturing city of Namur, Baron de Gefrier, head of the Comite National in that province, told me that out of a population of 354,000 inhabitants, 200,000 or more were absolutely destitute, making the very high percentage of close to 55 per cent. As I watched the poor being fed at the communal canteens, and as I saw them moving around listlessly in the thickly populated cities of Liege, Namur, Charleroi and Mons, with nothing to do, their savings gone, and with apparently no hope for the future, I pictured to myself what might happen when the pinch of hunger finally becomes too acute for them to stand it any longer. The Belgian has given a good account of himself in this war, as the world knows, but self-preservation comes ahead of love of country and God knows what will happen when the real pinch comes—if it does come.

(To be continued)

AID FROM GERMAN ARMY

[From a letter sent by H. C. Hoover to W. J. Chalmers, Treasurer of The Belgian Food Relief Committee of Chicago.]

“There is one characteristic of the whole of this work and that is the way it has been supported by people of moderate means, as indicated by the number of small subscriptions which we receive. It appears that it is those members of the community who have themselves been near the edge of want who respond to appeals of this character.

“It has been a good deal of work to set up an organization capable of handling the shipment and distribution of 3,000 tons of flour per diem, to say nothing of the supplementary materials, and it is obviously only by the devoted exertion of, probably, over 100,000 volunteer Belgian workers that this has been possible. The German army are giving us a great deal of help in Belgium, in fact, more than I think we can reasonably expect of such a body. The German population in Chicago should be interested in this fact that whereas the Germans take the strenuous view that they have not more obligation in this matter than the allies yet they do not fall behind the allies in their desire to be of help.”

THOUSANDS SAVED

Ethelbert Watts, for eight years United States Consul-General at Brussels, and who remained in Brussels after the German occupation, has recently returned upon a summons from the State Department.

“I am not allowed to comment widely upon what I have seen,” said Mr. Watts, “but I will say that the Belgians are tremendously grateful for the aid they are receiving from America. Wherever the work of relief has gone, lives of thousands have been saved. Two free meals a day are being given away in Brussels.

State Committee Executives

ARKANSAS—J. S. Pollack, Little Rock, Ark.
 CALIFORNIA—W. H. Crocker, Chamber of Commerce, San Francisco; C. F. Michael, San Francisco.
 CONNECTICUT—Anson T. McCook, 50 State Street, Hartford.
 DELAWARE—David T. Marvel, Dupont Building, Wilmington.
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA—Capt. E. J. Dorn, U. S. N., 425 Eleventh Street, Washington.
 GEORGIA—Dr. F. H. May, Atlanta.
 IOWA—Stanley Easton, Kellogg.
 ILLINOIS—William J. Chalmers, Edison Building, Chicago; Everett L. Millard, 69 Washington Street, Chicago; Arthur T. Aldis, Monadnock Block, Chicago.
 IOWA—D. S. Chamberlain, Des Moines.
 KANSAS—Hon. W. R. Stubbs, Topeka.
 LOUISIANA—Gen. Arsene Perrilliat, 422 Iibernia Building, New Orleans.
 MAINE—C. S. Hichborn, Augusta.
 MARYLAND—Miss Mary B. Shearer, 905 North Charles Street, Baltimore.
 MASSACHUSETTS—Charles S. Rackemann, Secretary, 75 Ames Building, Boston; Redington Fisk, 426 Boylston Street, Boston.
 MINNESOTA—E. P. Well, 432 Security Bank Building, Minneapolis.
 MONTANA—Gov. H. B. Stewart, Helena.
 NEBRASKA—J. E. Miller, State House, Lincoln.
 NEW HAMPSHIRE—Gen. Frank S. Streeter, Concord.
 NEW MEXICO—G. H. Van Stone, Santa Fe.
 NEW YORK—The Commission for Relief in Belgium, 71 Broadway, New York City.
 NORTH CAROLINA—S. Westray Battle, Asheville.
 NORTH DAKOTA—Gov. L. B. Hanna, Bismarck.
 OHIO—Edward Drummond Libbey, Nicholas Building, Toledo; O. K. Shimansky, Secretary, Board of Commerce Building, Columbus.
 OKLAHOMA—Gov. Robert L. Williams, Oklahoma City.
 OREGON—Samuel Hill, Theodore B. Wilcox, Portland.
 PENNSYLVANIA—Albert Cross, 1524 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.
 SOUTH CAROLINA—Bruce W. Ravenel, 1401 Palmetto Building, Columbia.
 SOUTH DAKOTA—Gov. Frank M. Byrne, Pierre.
 VERMONT—Charles S. Rackemann, Secretary, 75 Ames Building, Boston, Mass.; Redington Fiske, 426 Boylston Street, Boston, Mass.
 VIRGINIA—Col. H. M. Boykin, Richmond.
 WASHINGTON—Hon. Thomas Burke, J. D. Lowman, Seattle Chamber of Commerce, Seattle.
 WISCONSIN—E. P. Arpin, Grand Rapids; A. D. Campbell, Milwaukee.
 HAWAII—W. R. Castle, Honolulu.

STATE ASSEMBLING DEPOTS

In every State one or more concentrating depots, in charge of an efficient forwarding agent, have been established by the Commission. The list of these concentrating points and forwarding agents is appended:

ALABAMA
 Magnolia Compress & Warehouse Co., Mobile.
 Warrant Warehouse Co., Birmingham.
 ARIZONA
 Pioneer Transfer Co., Phoenix.
 ARKANSAS
 Terminal Warehouse Co., Little Rock.
 CALIFORNIA
 Shattuck & Nimmo Warehouse Co., Los Angeles.
 Haslett Warehouse Co., San Francisco.
 COLORADO
 Benedict Warehouse & Transfer Co., Denver.
 CONNECTICUT
 H. T. Smith Express Co., Meriden.
 A. Brazos & Sons, Inc., Middletown.
 Bill Bros. Co., Hartford.
 DELAWARE
 Chas. Warner Co., Wilmington.
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 Littlefield, Alvord & Co., Washington.
 FLORIDA
 Weisenfeld Warehouse Co., Jacksonville.
 GEORGIA
 Belgian Relief Committee, Warehouse 14, Houston St., Atlanta.
 IDAHO
 Peasley Transfer & Storage Co., Boise.
 ILLINOIS
 Sibley Warehouse & Storage Co., Chicago.
 Glynn's Fireproof Storage, Cairo.
 INDIANA
 Tripp Warehouse Co., Indianapolis.
 IOWA
 Merchants Transfer & Storage Co., Des Moines.
 Ewert & Richter Express & Storage Co., Davenport.
 Morningside Dray & Auto Co., Sioux City.
 Calders Van & Storage Co., Cedar Rapids.
 KANSAS
 City Transfer & Storage Co., Hutchinson.
 Bryan Transfer & Storage Co., Wichita.
 KENTUCKY
 Kelly Storage & Distributing Co., Lexington.
 Crutcher Bros. Co., 124 E. Main Street, Louisville.
 LOUISIANA
 Arsene Perrilliat, Press Street Landing, New Orleans.
 MAINE
 Henry McLaughlin & Co., Bangor.
 MARYLAND
 The Canton Co., Baltimore.
 B. R. F. Election House, Division St., Salisbury.
 MASSACHUSETTS
 New England Belgian Relief Fund, 426 Boylston St., Boston.
 Taunton Teaming Co., Taunton.
 Bay State Storage & Warehouse Co., Springfield.
 MICHIGAN
 Central Warehouse Co., Saginaw.
 Grand Rapids Association of Commerce, Grand Rapids.
 MINNESOTA
 Boyd Transfer & Storage Co., Minneapolis.
 MISSISSIPPI
 Hattiesburg Furniture Co., Hattiesburg.
 MISSOURI
 Goddard Grocery Co., 413 South Seventh St., St. Louis.
 Springfield Warehouse & Transfer Co., Springfield.
 Adams Transfer & Storage Co., Kansas City.
 MONTANA
 Jones Transfer Co., Butte.
 Foster-Baker Transfer & Storage Co., Billings.
 NEBRASKA
 Omaha Van & Storage Co., 806 S. 16th Street, Omaha.
 Carter Transfer & Storage Co., Lincoln.
 NEVADA
 Nevada Transfer Co., Reno.
 NEW HAMPSHIRE
 Wool Bros., Portsmouth.
 NEW JERSEY
 Walter H. Rickey, 23 W. State St., Trenton.
 NEW MEXICO
 Springer Transfer Co., Albuquerque.
 NEW YORK
 The Commission for Relief in Belgium, Bush Terminal, South Brooklyn, New York.
 Security Storage & Warehouse Co., Albany.
 Buffalo Storage & Carting Co., Buffalo.
 Flagg Storage Warehouse Co., Syracuse.
 NORTH CAROLINA
 Asheville Transfer & Storage Co., Asheville.
 NORTH DAKOTA
 Union Transfer Co., Fargo.
 J. B. Reed Storage & Transfer Co., Minot.
 OHIO
 Buckeye Transfer & Storage Co., Columbus.
 B. & O. S. W. Warehouse Co., Cincinnati.
 General Cartage & Storage Co., Cleveland.
 Toledo Warehouse Co., 1309 La-grange Street, Toledo.
 Union Storage Co., Dayton.
 Springfield Transfer & Storage Co., Springfield.
 OKLAHOMA
 O. K. Transfer & Storage Co., Oklahoma City.
 Guthrie Transfer Co., Guthrie.
 OREGON
 Theodore B. Wilcox, Municipal Dock, Portland.
 PENNSYLVANIA
 Union Storage Co., Pittsburgh.
 Albert Cross, Ex. Secy. B. R. F., Pier 16, Philadelphia.
 Erie Storage & Carting Co., Erie.
 RHODE ISLAND
 Merchants Cold Storage & Warehouse Co., Providence.
 Andrews Express & Storage Warehouse, Newport.
 SOUTH CAROLINA
 The Carolina Co., Charleston.
 Manufacturers Warehouse Co., Greenville.
 SOUTH DAKOTA
 Blue Line Transfer Co., Pierre.
 Sioux Falls Warehouse Co., Sioux Falls.
 TENNESSEE
 Nashville Warehouse & Elevator Co., Nashville.
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 TEXAS
 Texas Warehouse Co., Inc., Houston.
 Scobey Fireproof Storage Co., San Antonio.
 Robert Frazier, Waco.
 Fort Worth Warehouse & Transfer Co., Fort Worth.
 Western Transfer & Storage Co., El Paso.
 Dallas Transfer Co., Dallas.
 UTAH
 Redman Fireproof Storage Co., Salt Lake City.
 VERMONT
 C. H. Jillion, Montpelier.
 VIRGINIA
 Jones & Co., Norfolk.
 WASHINGTON
 Carter Transfer Co., Ellensburg.
 Spokane Transfer & Storage Co., Spokane.
 Eyres Storage & Distributing Co., Seattle.
 G. F. Trowbridge, Walla Walla.
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 Citizens Transfer & Storage Co., Parkersburg.
 WISCONSIN
 A. D. Campbell—All Railroad Freight Depots, Milwaukee.
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 Nearest Depot in Adjoining States.

THE COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM THE WOMAN'S SECTION

(OFFICES, No. 1 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK,

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MISS MAUDE WETMORE.

The Commission for Relief in Belgium

THE WOMAN'S SECTION

Under the August Patronage of Her Majesty The Queen of the Belgians and
H. R. H. The Duchess of Vendome
MESSAGE FROM HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS
TO THE WOMAN'S SECTION OF THE COMMISSION
FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM
HEADQUARTERS BELGIAN ARMY

November 29, 1914.

It gives me great pleasure to accept the invitation which has been transmitted to me to become Patroness of the Woman's Section of The Commission for Relief in Belgium.

I wish to extend to the women of America the deep gratitude of the women of Belgium for the work which they are doing for my people. The food which your country is daily providing to our women and children comes like a ray of sunshine in the darkest hour of Belgium's history.

The Belgian women have fought a brave fight for the common cause of human liberty, so dear to every American woman's heart.

ELISABETH.

Executive Co-operating Committee

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Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt	International Woman's Suffrage Alliance
Mrs. Truman H. Newberry	Needlework Guild of America
Mrs. Frederic Schoff	Congress of Mothers
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Mrs. Henry Oleschewer	National Federation of Women Workers
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Woman's Section of the National Conference of Catholic Charities

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	Mrs. R. A. Morton.....Wyoming

PRESIDENTS OF CITY ORGANIZATIONS

Mrs. James S. Cushman, Young Women's Christian Association of New York

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Mrs. John I. Moore, Helena.....Arkansas
Mrs. William H. Crocker, Crocker National Bank, San Francisco.....California
Mrs. S. J. Reynolds, Smyrna.....Delaware
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To the State Chairmen in Thirty-two States

1 Madison Ave., New York City.

The week has been here one of real gladness for the help that the Belgians have received in many States. In Virginia the good people contributed to the Virginia ship as generously in proportion to the population as had Kansas. Considering the local handicaps, this was remarkably brave and self-forgetting. The little town of Roanoke, after sending its share of food, pledged additionally \$1,500 a month for six months to the starving people. Virginia shall be long remembered for her splendid generosity.

* * *

A friend of the Belgians in Colorado Springs started a thanksgiving offering after dinner in her own home and asked the people in the town to do likewise. The fund was gathering splendidly when this benefactress was obliged to leave for Pasadena. Here she began the same campaign of mercy among her friends. In both places she requested that the money be wired. From Colorado Springs came \$600, the thanksgiving offering of the first group; from Pasadena the day following came \$1,200, the thank-offering of the second group. Since \$1,000 and \$750 have been added making \$3,550. Much can be moved sometimes by an earnest leader. We were deeply grateful for the help sent us by this friend.

* * *

In several of the contributions to the starving Belgians the human story has been especially touching. The \$127.50 raised by the lepers of Molokai carries, we are sure, something more than physical life to these people. The six dimes wrapped in a piece of brown paper and sent anonymously by an ex-convict bears the same spiritual blessing. He had saved this money to get shoes mended but he "remembered." He asked that six cans of milk be sent to some child in Belgium.

* * *

This week we received from the post office a small package marked "This is for some cold persn in the war stricken Europe." We are obliged to open packages to make sure that they contain nothing written. The packet had a letter: "This is from a little working boy and this is a muffler, wrape it round your neck and it will keep you worm; if you cannot read this ask somebody to read it to you and then write to me, this is my address: M. C., 460 —, St., San Francisco, Cal., U. S. of America." The chairman answered for the "cold persn" lovingly.

* * *

The food boxes are proving very successful, indeed. From one contributor in the District of Columbia came an order for three hundred and more are to be sent by the same friend later. In several states the response is very encouraging.

May the coming days be fruitful for those waiting helpless in their misery and living only as the workers succeed in their behalf.

For your help the Woman's Section is, as always, profoundly grateful.

Cordially yours,

JOSEPHINE BATES, *Chairman.*

A GRAPHIC PEN PICTURE OF RELIEF WORK IN BELGIUM

Letter from Mrs. H. C. Hoover to Mrs. Lindon Bates

The Red House, Hornton Street W.,
December 14, 1914.

Dear Friend:

I reached London a few days ago, and I find the Commission here very hard at work. My husband arrived from Belgium a few minutes after my train arrived from Liverpool, so we have his first-hand reports from all the different departments of the Commission.

The work connected with actual distribution of the food in Belgium is largely in the hands of the Belgians themselves. Some time ago they had arranged a very large and efficient Comite Nationale de Secours et Alimentation with as intricate and far-reaching system of organization as communication and transportation under the German Government would allow, and convents, monasteries and local charitable organizations were all interlocked and were doing all that was possible in the different districts with the provisions they had left, and as far as circumstances would permit with the restricted transportation to and fro within the country.

However, since under the German rule, except under express permission for a definite object, no Belgian may leave his own town or proceed further than from two to five miles from his own house if he lives in the country, and as there are no postal, telegraphic nor telephonic communications within the Kingdom, nor from it to the outside, you can see they were tremendously hampered.

Mr. Whitlock, however, has now joined together all these local organizations in a network, and the Commission has absolutely unrestricted use of all the transport facilities (that is, of what Government railways are in operation and of all the canal systems and roads upon which they can use their own vehicles). It may send messages by hand anywhere within the Kingdom, and has perfectly unrestricted use of the German Government telegraph communications, which are very perfect. He has a large force of American men who oversee all the work and are able to follow up where every pound of the provisions goes.

The final distribution is made from the soup kitchens and canteens where the actual meal is served out, so there is very little chance for leakage. Every Belgian is registered in his own district, and if he or she no longer has food, and within her own district is unable to obtain any food with the funds she possesses, she goes to the nearest kitchen or canteen to her residence, and if it is her first appearance must be officially registered and the condition of herself and all the members of the family inquired into by a member of the local committee. Practically all the better-class Belgians have volunteered for work on these relief committees, and in most instances the work is very well done; so that a member of this local committee having thoroughly investigated the case of the applicant, she is entered upon the books and given a ticket, such as the ones I am enclosing to you. These, as you see, have a space for two meals for every day in the month and the number of members of her family must be entered, and one of them presents it at the canteen at meal time, just as they did in San Francisco; and when the portion is allotted to them the meal ticket is stamped with the date in the proper space. (If you notice, the tickets all have some blanks unstamped, that means there was no food available on that day, and unless they were able to get some from friends who still had a small supply left, they went hungry on that day.)

Of course, the tickets for this month were when the Commission was first beginning its work, and they very much hope that no accidents will occur to leave spaces on the cards in the ensuing months. But, of course, the least hitch in the canal boat service or more people suddenly being thrown upon the canteen unexpectedly, may cause just such another unhappy event at any moment. The supply left in the different centres was not the same, the demands upon them are different, so food rations are not always the same. But the days Mr. Hoover was there this last time most places were getting bread or some form of cereal food for breakfast, sometimes with coffee; and the bread or cereal food and a large portion of the thick soup, containing considerable quantities of meat, bread, vegetables and so forth, which the people particularly like, and potatoes for lunch.

The babies under three have separate canteens. The Belgians themselves had been reserving for the babies the most nutritious food, and it has been found expedient to have them fed from separate kitchens. Babies up to six or nine months are given properly diluted milk, either real in some places where the dairies have not been destroyed, or condensed in others. From six to eighteen months, the food is gradually changed, and from eighteen months to three years they get more solid matter. From three years on they go into the grown-ups' canteens.

Invalids also, whenever possible, are given special food; and all babies and all invalids *must* be examined by the local doctor (who works on the Committee) every so often, and have their cards stamped by him.

Belgium is a pretty big country when it comes to trying to feed everybody in it, and, of course, some regions are in much more deplorable condition than others. For instance, my husband, at one of the Brussels canteens, saw a woman with an 11-year-old child, and a baby of 2 or 3 in her arms, appear for a meal with a ticket from a small town some thirty miles distant. The dispensing official asked what she was doing there. She said she came for food. He asked how she came to be there. She said she had walked in. He said:

"But this is not a Brussels ticket, why don't you apply at that town for the meal?"

She shook the ticket at him, saying: "Just look at that ticket and see why I don't stay there for food for my children." This was towards the end of November and there were already eight spaces on the ticket.

"I have no food left," she said, "no way of getting any except what I get from the kitchens. You look at these empty spaces and you see why I can't leave my children there. I heard that in Brussels one could get a meal every day and I have brought my children here instead."

It had happened that she had walked the full thirty miles without a permit to leave her own town and without anyone stopping to molest her. On the other hand, there are still some regions in Belgium that have ample supplies of their own to last for another fortnight. Indeed there is one section in which eggs are cheaper than they are in England to-day, but, of course, that happens to be because no troops have passed through, and there is no way of sending the eggs and chickens out, consequently that little valley had an oversupply. But, on the other hand, if they had been able to send them away they could, of course, not have supplied the rural population within a radius of ten miles.

LOU HENRY HOOVER.

"FOOD FOR BELGIUM"

Bulletin of The Commission for Relief in Belgium

OFFICIAL CLEARING HOUSE FOR ALL BELGIAN RELIEF

71 Broadway, New York

VOL. I NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 13, 1915 No. 3

American Common Sense

The Commission for Relief in Belgium COMPRISING

AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM,
SPANISH COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM,
ITALIAN COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM,
COMITE NATIONAL DE SECOURS ET D'ALIMENTATION.

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*American or Spanish Consul.

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Bankers.—NATIONAL CITY BANK, 55 Wall Street, New York; GUARANTY TRUST COMPANY, 140 Broadway, New York.

Counsel.—WILLIAM EDWIN HALL, 27 William Street, New York.

Purpose and Organization

This Commission was created by the American and Spanish Ambassadors in London and Ministers in Brussels to carry out an agreement entered into between the various belligerent forces, providing for the import of foodstuffs to the civil population in Belgium.

This Commission is entirely neutral and its working members are comprised of neutrals from the business communities in the United States, England and Belgium, and has offices in London, New York and Rotterdam.

The Commission works in co-operation with the Comité National de Secours et d'Alimentation, whose headquarters are in Brussels, with branches throughout Belgium—which branches usually embrace the local officials. The Comité in Brussels attends to the entire distribution of food to the people.

The functions of the Commission are as follows:

1. To secure foodstuffs from any quarter. Supplies are being procured by:

- Various independent organizations and committees in all parts of the world.
- Committees appointed by this Commission.
- Direct contribution from firms and individuals.
- Purchases by this Commission.

2. To provide transportation from any centre in the world into Belgium. The Commission has ships en route to and from the United States, India, Canada, etc. The shipping is managed entirely free of charge by Messrs. Birt, Potter & Hughes, Ltd., and Messrs. Trinder, Anderson & Co., of London, and Messrs. Norton, Lilly & Co., of York.

3. The Commission undertakes the guardianship of the foodstuffs from molestation throughout the belligerent area. The supplies are issued from the principal and branch stations of the Commission in Belgium into the hands of the "Comité National de Secours et d'Alimentation," Brussels, for detailed distribution.

It will be understood that the task of provisioning over six million people for a period of many months, requiring the despatch of a shipload of food every other day, constitutes the largest commissary undertaking that the world has ever seen and requires the closest co-operation. It concerns a country where war is in progress, and most stringent conditions are imposed by the various governments.

This Commission desires more particularly non-perishable foodstuffs, new blankets and new clothes. From the States not as yet officially organized and represented by a recognized committee, it will welcome remittances and apply them to the purchase of food.

LINDON W. BATES, *Vice-Chairman.*

ROBERT D. McCARTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

"Do not spend your relief fund by purchasing unwisely at Seaboard; buy in your own State or preferably in the primary interior centers of food production and let us pay the freight from the primary food centers, thereby making your funds go from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. further," is the appeal made to Governors and State Committees throughout the United States by The Commission for Relief in Belgium, in calling attention to the growing food shortage in Belgium.

After a study of the food situation, both here and abroad, in connection with the great rise in food prices in this country, and the more alarming shortage in Belgium, The Commission finds that committees which have been buying in New York have been paying unnecessary freight charges running from 5 per cent. to 15 per cent. of their total expenditure.

The Commission for Relief in Belgium has a Fund from which not one cent can be allotted to anything but organization, administration, and transport from giver in any part of the world to receiver in Belgium. It may refund the cost of a postage stamp to a donor, but it may not from this fund expend a cent for food. It has separate donations and other funds from which its purchases, scientifically selected, are expertly made.

In the main its purchases are made in the interior, primary food centers, because nearly all foodstuffs are cheaper in the interior than at seaboard. Therefore, in so purchasing, the Commission makes its donated funds procure the largest quantity, and it pays the rail and water freight when not donated, the express charges, and refunds the parcel postage from its Transportation Fund Trust. Not a penny donated is used for anything except to obtain food.

The Commission has nearly one hundred authorized assembling depots and agents to serve forty-nine States. It has terminal warehouses or docks in fourteen American ports. It has special arrangements with many railways, special express reductions from each express office in the United States, and has been accorded a helping hand in connection with the parcels post.

Its hundred State assembling depots, its fourteen terminal seaboard facilities, its free transport over land and sea; its free insurance, its free service in every proper and necessary way are accorded primarily to each State Committee which the Commission has founded or recognized, also to every institution, organization or individual that has something helpful to give in food or money who co-operates directly with it. The Commission confidently appeals to American common sense that on the fundamental basis above outlined—it is therefore best that each State Committee, and all interested in the work of feeding Belgium, utilize the facilities freely given by the Commission with only the rules necessary to promote the harmonious working of the system it has now established.

This problem is so great, so menacing of colossal catastrophe, that The Commission for Relief in Belgium asks for intelligent team work, in which equal justice obtains for every helping committee and individual.